

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF U.S. ISSUES PAPER FOR NARCOTICS  
COOPERATION AGENDA ITEM FOR UPCOMING US/ASEAN MEETING IN  
WASHINGTON. COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FROM ASEAN EMBASSIES  
ARE REQUESTED PRIOR COB JULY 25. BEGIN TEXT:

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AGENDA ITEM: NARCOTICS COOPERATION

I. U.S. OBJECTIVES: WE SEEK TO ENCOURAGE ASEAN MEMBER  
STATES TO COOPERATE AMONGST THEMSELVES, AND WITH OTHER  
NATIONS, TO CONTROL ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND  
ABUSE.

II. ASEAN OBJECTIVES: ASEAN, AS AN ORGANIZATION, DESIRES USG ASSISTANCE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. INITIALLY ASEAN HAS REQUESTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A SERIES OF SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS ON PREVENTIVE DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION. IT IS LIKELY THAT ASEAN WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL TO SUPPLEMENT CURRENT BILATERAL FUNDING UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

III. ESSENTIAL FACTORS: ASEAN IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF DRUG ADDICTION WITHIN ASIAN STATES, A PHENOMENON WHICH IS THOUGHT TO ACCOUNT FOR A LARGE PART OF THE ILLICIT HEROIN PRODUCED IN THE SO-CALLED GOLDEN TRIANGLE. OF THE FIVE ASEAN STATES, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS DRUG ADDICTION PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA DO NOT CURRENTLY APPEAR TO HAVE SERIOUS DRUG ADDICTION PROBLEMS, BOTH COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED THAT THE LEVEL OF DRUG ABUSE NOT INCREASE.

THE UNITED STATES IS CURRENTLY COOPERATING BILATERALLY IN NARCOTICS CONTROL WITH ALL FIVE ASEAN MEMBERS. IN THE CASE OF THAILAND, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA, THIS COOPERATION INVOLVES FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SUCH ASSISTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED TO THE PHILIPPINES IN THE PAST.

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THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ASEAN DRUG EXPERTS, HELD IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, RECOGNIZED PUBLICLY THE NEED FOR PERIODIC WORKSHOPS ON PREVENTIVE EDUCATION. SPURRED LARGELY BY THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION, THE CHIANG MAI MEETING RECOMMENDED HOLDING ASEAN SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS ON DRUG EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS AND CURRICULUM DESIGNERS. IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR, ASEAN SUBMITTED AS PART OF US/ASEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN USG FUNDING FOR A SERIES OF FIVE ANNUAL WORKSHOPS, STARTING IN 1978, TO BE HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES. PROJECTED COSTS WOULD AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY 2 MILLION DOLLAR SPREAD OVER THE FIVE YEARS.

AT THE JULY 18-19 US/ASEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING IN MANILA, THE U.S. DELEGATION DISCUSSED THE FIVE YEAR PROPOSAL. WE INDICATED THAT WE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL AND THAT WE COULD INITIALLY FUND A SEMINAR IN 1979 SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH ASEAN ON SUCH CHANGES.

ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD LET THE ASEAN STATES TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN DEVELOPING ANY REGIONAL SCHEME FOR SPECIALIZATION, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WE SHOULD HAVE IN MIND THE POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL ASEAN STATES COULD CONTRIBUTE MOST EFFECTIVELY. THIS WILL REQUIRE INTEGRATION OF OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WITH ANY ASEAN PROJECTS OR OTHER REGIONAL EFFORTS. THUS, THE USG COULD SUPPORT AN ASEAN PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES; OUR SUPPORT FOR ASEAN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS MIGHT BE FOCUSED ON

THAILAND; MALAYSIA WOULD BE A LOGICAL SITE FOR ASEAN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE; AND SINGAPORE MIGHT BE THE BEST LOCATION TO SUPPORT AN ASEAN PROJECT IN CUSTOMS CONTROL. (INDONESIA PRESENTS A PROBLEM SINCE IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS NOT DEVELOPED ANY PARTICULAR SPECIALIZATION FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL WORK. HOWEVER, IF ASEAN PROPOSED A NARCOTICS PROJECT IN INDONESIA THAT DID NOT DUPLICATE OTHER PROGRAMS, WE WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING IT.) SOME ASEAN PROJECTS SUCH AS SEMINARS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS COULD ALSO MOVE FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AS PART OF ASEAN COOPERATION.

WE RECOGNIZE, MOREOVER, THAT EACH ASEAN NATION HAS DIFFERENT NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS AND THAT OUR BILATERAL OR REGIONAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD TAKE THIS AND EACH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DRUG SUPPRESSION INTO CONSIDERATION. THAILAND, FOR EXAMPLE, IS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN OPIUM CROP SUBSTITUTION, ENFORCEMENT AND DEMAND REDUCTION. AS THAI GOVERNMENT EFFORTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE, WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER REQUESTS FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

#### IV. POINTS TO BE MADE:

--DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING IS A PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ASEAN STATES.

--COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS, THROUGH MULTILATERAL FORA LIKE ASEAN, IS ESSENTIAL TO CONTROL THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

--THE USG WELCOMES COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL WITH ASEAN AS AN EXTENSION OF OUR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND IS READY NOW TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

--IN SUPPORTING ASEAN PROJECTS, THE USG WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EACH ASEAN NATION TO DEVELOP REGIONAL PROJECTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN AREAS WHERE NARCOTICS CONTROL EXPERTISE HAS BEEN  
DEVELOPED OR IN AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THAT GOVERN-  
MENT.

--THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A DRUG  
EDUCATION SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES AND HAS  
AGREED TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN FISCAL YEAR 1979 SUBJECT  
TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUD-  
GETARY DETAILS. END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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